

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on September 19, 2006. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claim 1 is amended to eliminate certain embodiments, and claim 2 is cancelled, without prejudice. No additional or new subject matter is introduced into the application by this Amendment. Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in the application, of which claims 3 and 5-7 are withdrawn species. The Examiner is respectfully urged to *rejoin* claims 3 and 5-7.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Hurd *et al.* article (*J.A.C.S.*) and Gent *et al.* article (*J.Chem.Soc.*). Claim 2 is cancelled. The rejections do not apply to claim 1 in its present form.

This invention is concerned with aromatic vinyl ether compounds. In contrast, Hurd *et al.* disclose aromatic allyl compounds. The Hurd *et al.* article is completely silent concerning vinyl ether compounds. Therefore the Hurd *et al.* reference does not anticipate the present claims.

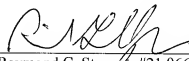
The claims in their present form exclude compound (IX) of Gent *et al.* Moreover, although Gent *et al.* disclose vinyl ether structures – e.g. compound (II) – they do not suggest aromatic vinyl ether compounds. Accordingly, the Gent *et al.* reference does not anticipate the present claims.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of record and to pass all of claims 1 and 3-8 herein to Issue.

Should there be any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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